

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01372 040825Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 SS-15 PA-01 ICA-11  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NEA-10 /071 W  
-----097606 040844Z /11  
P 031458Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1135

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 1372

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR  
SUBJECT: JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY

REF: STATE 82676

1. EMBASSY IS CONTACTING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TO ASCERTAIN ITS VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT EXPROPRIATION OF PORTIONS OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY. THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED AS AN INTERIM REPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT'S QUERY IN REFTEL:

2. THE EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT IS SYSTEMATICALLY OR OTHERWISE EXPROPRIATING PORTIONS OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HUNGARY.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY A SECOND-LEVEL OFFICIAL OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL WISHES TO USE A PORTION OF THE JEWISH CEMETERY AT ASZOD. THE COUNCIL WANTS THIS LAND FOR SOME MUNICIPAL OR ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. IT APPROACHED THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WITH A REQUEST FOR THIS LAND. AT THAT TIME THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO REINTER THE AFFECTED REMAINS IN ANOTHER PORTION OF THE CEMETERY. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY DID NOT OBJECT TO THE COUNCIL'S PLANS, AND NEGOTIATED A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY PLAN.

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IT UNDERTOOK, HOWEVER, TO ADVERTISE IN JEWISH CIRCLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ANY POSSIBLE SURVIVING FAMILIES' WISHES ABOUT REINTERMENT.

4. COMMENT: IT MAY HAVE BEEN THESE INQUIRIES WHICH SPARKED THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BY RABBI BARRY DOV LERNER.

5. AS BACKGROUND, THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF CEMETERIES IS A FINANCIAL PROBLEM FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. THE COMMUNITY IS MUCH SMALLER NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE WORLD WAR II AND IT DOES NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MAINTAIN FULLY EITHER THE CEMETERIES OR THE SYNAGOGUES LEFT FROM EARLIER TIMES.

6. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT ASAP THE RESULTS OF ITS CONTACTS WITH THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP.  
KAISER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, POLICIES, REPORTS, CEMETERIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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